

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 01721 240826 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /095 W
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R 240755 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4107

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1721

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 073819, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 1708

SUMMARY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, I MADE REPRESENTATION TO SEC GEN MFA ZAITON THIS MORNING. ACCORDING TO ZAITON, RECOGNITION IS NOW IMMINENT. IN DEFERENCE TO VISITING ROK REP, CHOI, GOM HAD DELAYED EXCHANGE OF NOTES NOT WISHING EMBARRASS ROK. HOWEVER, NOTES ARE NOW UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW AND ZAITON GAVE IMPRESSION THAT RECOGNITION COULD TAKE PLACE AT ANY TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER PRESENTING ARGUMENTS IN BEHALF OF DELAY AS STRONGLY AS POSSIBLE, I PROBED ZAITON ON ADVANTAGE GOM HAD IN MIND IN PRECIPITATE RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. ZAITON CLAIMED THAT RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WAS NECESSARY IN TERMS OF GOM'S NEUTRALITY POLICY AND TO PROCRASTINATE AT THIS TIME WOULD MERELY EXPOSE GOM TO CHARGE OF HYPOCRISY. IN RESPONSE TO MY DIRECT QUESTION WHETHER POINTS THAT I HAD RAISED WOULD BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY AFFECT TIMING OF GOM MOVE, ZAITON SAID SIMILAR POINTS HAD BEEN RAISED BY ROK REP AND GOM HAD CONCLUDED THEY PROVIDED NO BASIS FOR DELAY IN RECOGNITION MOVE.

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PAGE 02 KUALA 01721 240826 Z

2. ZAITON EMPHASIZED THAT RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA IN NO WAY MEANT TO DIMINISH OR OTHERWISE NEGATIVELY AFFECT LONG-STANDING CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH ROK. ON CONTRARY, HE SAID, GOM HOPED THAT NORMAL DIALOGUE WITH PYONGYANG MIGHT RESULT IN POSSIBLE HELPFUL ASSISTANCE TO ROK IN TERMS OF NORTH- SOUTH DIALOGUE.

3. COMMENT: AS INDICATED BY THIS CONVERSATION, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY ROK REP, GOM POSITION ON THIS ISSUE APPEARS TO BE SET IN CONCRETE.

LYDMAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUALA01721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730452/aaaaixil.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 073819, 73 KUALA LUMPUR 1708
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980202
Subject: MALAYSIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, MY
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005